REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 and 3-11 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled as discussed below.

Claim Amendments

In order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants have taken this opportunity to amend claim 1 to further clarify the claimed subject matter.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite, among others, "an input mode selector for receiving, from one of the at least two applications, a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications" (emphasis added).

In accordance with amended claim 1, the input mode selector receives a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically upon execution of the one of the at least two applications. Support for this amendment exists at least at paragraph [0025] and in Figure 14 of the original specification. Paragraph [0025] of the original specification recites (emphasis added):

> [0025] As illustrated in Figure 14, step 1000, where a signal indicative of an illumination state change is received, can optionally include receiving a signal indicative of an input mode change 1006. The receipt of this signal in 1006 is typically in response to the receipt of an indication that the user has toggled the input mode, as shown in step 1008, or in response to the execution of an application that has a default data entry mode, as shown in step 1010.

Thus, the input mode selector receives a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically upon execution of an application. No user intervention is required to change the selective illumination of the keyboard.

In view of the amendments to claim 1, claim 2 has been cancelled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 9-11 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,408,060 to Muurinen (hereinafter "Muurinen") in view of commonly assigned U.S. Publication No. 2002/0054676 to Zhao, et al. (hereinafter "Zhao"). The Examiner has rejected claim 8 as unpatentable over Muurinen in view of Zhao and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,693,272 to Adachi.

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the rejections having regard to the amendments to claim 1 and to the following remarks.

Muurinen does not teach an input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1

The Examiner stated in the Office Action dated April 16, 2010, that Muurinen teaches "a manual input mode selector" (see Office Action dated April 16, 2010, at pages 6 and 8).

Furthermore, the Examiner stated that "Muurinen, however, teaches, an input mode selector [...] can be **manually** selected by the user; instead of (**automatic**) selection, from one of the at least two applications, a signal indicative of a default active input mode **in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications** (emphasis in original, see Office Action dated April 16, 2010, at page 11).

Thus, the Examiner agrees that Muurinen does not teach an input mode selector that receives a signal a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications.

Applicants have taken this opportunity to explicitly state that the input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1 receives a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the manual input mode selector of Muurinen does not receive a signal indicative of a default active input mode in response to execution of the one of the two at least two applications. Instead, Muurinen discloses an illuminated pushbutton keyboard in which keys are operable in at least two different modes. Each key is provided with symbols or areas of color, which denote the different modes. The symbols or areas are selectively illuminated depending upon which mode is selected. The mode of operation is changed with the pushbutton 16 (FCN) (see Muurinen, abstract and column 3, lines 10 to11).

The manual input mode selector of Muurinen is a simple toggle switch that toggles the selective illumination of symbols independent of execution of an application and is solely based on user intervention to change illumination mode.

Thus, Muurinen does not teach an input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1.

Zhao does not teach an input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1

Applicants submit that Zhao does not teach an input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1 either.

According to the Examiner, Zhao teaches a mobile device having an "input mode selector for (**automatic**) **receiving from one of the at least two applications**, a signal indicative of a default active input mode **in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications** and **for determining an active input mode of the keyboard** of the mobile device in accordance with the received signal indicative of the default active input mode" (emphasis in original, see Office Action dated April 16, 2010 at page 11).

As previously submitted, analysis of the portions of Zhao upon which the Examiner relies shows that claim elements in question are absent. The Examiner cited paragraphs [0020], [0022], [0029] and [0032] of Zhao as describing an input mode selector. Zhao describes that "the mode of operation (data, telephony or joint) for the multifunctional keyboard 51 is preferably determined by the keyboard mode control software module 54 […] the keyboard mode control software 54 will preferably automatically set the multifunctional keyboard 51 to a preferred mode", thereby controlling the conversion of the unique input signal from the letter keys of the multifunctional keyboard into character codes or telephony tone signals based on the mode of operation of the device (see paragraph [0029] of Zhao et al).

Thus, the keyboard control software of Zhao assigns functionality to multifunctional keys based on the mode of operation of the device by determining whether to convert the input signal from a key into a character code or into telephony signals based on the mode of operation.

Zhao does not teach or suggest that the keyboard control software, which interprets the functionality of multifunctional keys, can be used for providing a signal to a backlight controller for controlling at least one light source to selectively illuminate one of the at least two pre-existing indicia on the plurality of keys as claimed in amended claim 1.

Muurinen and Zhao, either alone or in combination, do not teach an input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1

Muurinen and Zhao, either alone or in combination, do not teach “an input mode selector for receiving, from one of the at least two applications, a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications”, as claimed in amended claim 1.

The Examiner asserts that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art […] to alternatively provide to the mobile device of Muurinen an (automatic) input mode selector for (automatic) receiving from one of at least two applications, a signal indicative of a default active input mode in response to the execution of the one of the at least two application and for determining an active input mode of the keyboard of the mobile device in accordance with received signal indicative of the default active input mode, as suggested by Zhao et al., so that explicit or manual mode selection of said mobile device can be alternatively substituted by said (automatic) mode selection, as explained above” (emphasis omitted, see Office Action dated April 16, 2010 at page 12).

Applicants respectfully disagree. As stated earlier, Zhao provides a keyboard control software to interpret the functionality of multifunction keys as being a character code or a telephony signal based on the mode of operation for the keyboard.

Substituting the manual input mode selector (FCN Key) of Muurinen with the keyboard control software of Zhao will, at best, result in the interpreting the functionality of keys in Muurinen based on the mode of operation of the device. The keyboard control software will not control the backlight controller to selectively illuminate the keyboard.

The combination of Muurinen and Zhao as proposed by the Examiner will not and cannot provide the input mode selector as claimed in amended claim 1 that receives a signal indicative of a default active input mode automatically in response to execution of the one of the at least two applications and provides this signal to a backlight controller for selectively illuminating one of the at least two pre-existing indicia on the keys.

In summary, Muurinen and Zhao do not teach or suggest each and every feature as claimed in amended claim 1. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims 3 -11 are not obvious in light of the cited references, either alone or in combination.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections have been addressed and request early reconsideration and allowance of this application.

A Request for One Month Extension of Time and a Request for Continued Examination is being concurrently filed with this Response.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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